

“Are You Thankful for Pentecost?”

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BIG SANDY, Texas—The Feast of Pentecost has wonderful history and fantastic memories. Plus, this annual feast day is rich with tremendous meaning.

Pentecost has many valuable lessons for us to remember. In this article, let us consider five lessons.

Giving His Ten Commandments

Are you thankful that God gave His Ten Commandments?

After God brought the children of Israel out of the land of Egypt—the house of bondage (Exodus 20:1-2)—He proceeded to list some of His expectations for them (verses 3-17).

The apostle Paul, who regularly wrote about the necessity of grace, often also expressed His appreciation for the Ten Commandments (such as in Romans 7:7-14).

Are you thankful for the law that Paul described as holy, just and good? Do you appreciate the spiritual law?

Giving His Spirit

Are you thankful that God gave His Spirit?

On the Day of Pentecost, God poured out His Spirit to the Jewish converts in Jerusalem (Acts 2:1-4). Since this historical action was done outside the temple worship system, God performed great miracles to show His involvement in the matter.

When God later poured out His Spirit to some gentile converts in Caesarea (Acts 10:44-48), He also performed this historical action outside the temple worship system and again performed great miracles to show His involvement in the matter.

(By mentioning the manner in which God performed these two historical events, I state my belief that God does not perform such miracles every time a person receives the Holy Spirit. My goal is to diminish any unrealistic expectations of a baptism before it occurs and to eliminate any doubt about a baptism after it happens.)

Made a better covenant

Are you thankful that God made a better covenant?

The book of Hebrews mentions that Christ was a mediator of a better covenant because it was based upon better promises (Hebrews 8:6).

The author says that there would not have been a need for a second covenant if the first one was faultless (verse 7).

And what was the fault of the first? The fault was with the people (verse 8).

Therefore, God did not repeat the covenant He made following the Exodus (verse 9), but rather made a covenant based upon His laws being written in the hearts and minds of the people (verse 10).

Building a spiritual temple

Are you thankful that God is building a spiritual temple?

Stephen said that, while Solomon built a house for God (Acts 7:47), the Most High does not dwell in temples made with hands (verse 48).

Paul reiterated this concept many times—including in 1 Corinthians 3:16; 2 Corinthians 6:16; and Ephesians 2:21-22.

Peter eloquently discussed the matter in 1 Peter 2:5.

Believers are the house of God.

Power of God in you

Are you thankful for the power of God in you?

We thank God that we as people are able to use human qualities—like planning, concentration, determination and discipline—to accomplish successes in this life.

However, there are times when all of those excellent qualities cannot help us to overcome certain situations and challenges in this life.

It is during those times that we gain a greater appreciation for the power of God in us.

Scriptures for the season

Leviticus 23:15-17—“And you shall count for yourselves from the day after the Sabbath, from the day that you brought the sheaf of the wave offering: seven Sabbaths shall be completed. Count fifty days to the day after the seventh Sabbath; then you shall offer a new grain offering to the LORD. You shall bring from your dwellings two wave loaves of two-tenths of an ephah. They shall be of fine flour; they shall be baked with leaven. They are the firstfruits to the LORD.”

Deuteronomy 16:9-10—“You shall count seven weeks for yourself; begin to count the seven weeks from the time you begin to put the sickle to the grain. Then you shall keep the Feast of Weeks to the LORD your God with the tribute of a freewill offering from your hand, which you shall give as the LORD your God blesses you.”

Exodus 20:1-2—And God spoke all these words, saying: “I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage.” (He proceeded to give the Ten Commandments.)

Exodus 20:3-11—“You shall have no other gods before Me. You shall not make for yourself a carved image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth; you shall not bow down to them nor serve them. For I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children to the third and fourth generations of those who hate Me, but showing mercy to thousands, to those who love Me and keep My commandments. You shall not take the name of the LORD your God in vain, for the LORD will not hold him guiltless who takes His name in vain. Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days you shall labor and do all your work, but the seventh day is the Sabbath of the LORD your God. In it you shall do no work: you, nor your son, nor your daughter, nor your male servant, nor your female servant, nor your cattle, nor your stranger who is within your gates. For in six days the LORD made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested the seventh day. Therefore the LORD blessed the Sabbath day and hallowed it.”

Exodus 20:12-17—“Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long upon the land which the LORD your God is giving you. You shall not murder. You shall not commit adultery. You shall not steal. You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor. You shall not covet your neighbor's house; you shall not covet your neighbor's wife, nor his male servant, nor his female servant, nor his ox, nor his donkey, nor anything that is your neighbor's.”

Psalms 51:11—Do not cast me away from Your presence, and do not take Your Holy Spirit from me.

Luke 24:49—“Behold, I send the Promise of My Father upon you; but tarry in the city of Jerusalem until you are endued with power from on high.”

Acts 1:4-5—And being assembled together with them, He commanded them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the Promise of the Father, “which,” He said, “you have heard from Me; for John truly baptized with water, but you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.”

Acts 2:1-4—When the Day of Pentecost had fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. And suddenly there came a sound from heaven, as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. Then there appeared to them divided tongues, as of fire, and one sat upon each of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.

Acts 2:22-24—“Men of Israel, hear these words: Jesus of Nazareth, a Man attested by God to you by miracles, wonders, and signs which God did through Him in your midst, as you yourselves also know—Him, being delivered by the determined purpose and foreknowledge of God, you have taken by lawless hands, have crucified, and put to death; whom God raised up, having loosed the pains of death, because it was not possible that He should be held by it.”

Acts 2:29-31—“Men and brethren, let me speak freely to you of the patriarch David, that he is both dead and buried, and his tomb is with us to this day. Therefore, being a prophet, and knowing that God had sworn with an oath to him that of the fruit of his body, according to the flesh, He would raise up the Christ to sit on his throne, he, foreseeing this, spoke concerning the resurrection of the Christ, that His soul was not left in Hades, nor did His flesh see corruption.”

Acts 2:32-33—“This Jesus God has raised up, of which we are all witnesses. Therefore being exalted to the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, He poured out this which you now see and hear.”

Acts 2:37-40—Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, “Men and brethren, what shall we do?” Then Peter said to them, “Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is to you and to your children, and to all who are afar off, as many as the Lord our God will call.” And with many other words he testified and exhorted them, saying, “Be saved from this perverse generation.”

Romans 8:11—But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit [that] dwells in you.

1 Corinthians 3:16-17—Do you not know that you are the temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you? If anyone defiles the temple of God, God will destroy him. For the temple of God is holy, which temple you are.

Galatians 5:22-23—But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law.

Ephesians 4:30—And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by [which] you were sealed for the day of redemption.

1 Thessalonians 5:19—Do not quench the Spirit.

2 Timothy 1:6-7—Therefore I remind you to stir up the gift of God which is in you through the laying on of my hands. For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind.